

EXHIBIT “A”

SUM-100

SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL)

**NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: LOWE'S HOME CENTERS, LLC; and DOES 1 to 5
(AVISO AL DEMANDADO):**

**YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: ARMAAN FAHEZ by and through his
(LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE):** Guardian ad Litem, PARWINEZ
FAHEZ

FOR COURT USE ONLY
(SOLO PARA USO DE LA CORTE)
FILED

2021 FEB -2 A 10: 23

KATE BIEKER
CLERK OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
COUNTY OF CONTRA COSTA, CA

BY: *[Signature]* YCLERK

NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below:

You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. **NOTE:** The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case. **AVISO!** Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información en la continuación.

Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte lo podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia.

Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. **AVISO:** Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de \$10,000 ó más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso.

The name and address of the court is:

(El nombre y dirección de la corte es):

Superior Court of California, County of Contra Costa

725 Court Street

Martinez, California 94553

The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is: NICK CASPER

(El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es):

CASPER, MEADOWS, SCHWARTZ & COOK

2121 N. California Blvd., Suite 1020, Walnut Creek, CA 94596

DATE:

(Fecha)

2-2-2021

Clerk, by

(Secretario)

C. A. JACALA

925-947-1147

Deputy

(Adjunto)

(For proof of service of this summons, use Proof of Service of Summons (form POS-010).)

(Para prueba de entrega de esta citación use el formulario Proof of Service of Summons, (POS-010)).

NOTICE TO THE PERSON SERVED: You are served

1. ☐ as an individual defendant.
2. ☐ as the person sued under the fictitious name of (specify):

3. ☒ on behalf of (specify): LOWE'S HOME CENTERS, LLC

under: ☐ CCP 416.10 (corporation)

☐ CCP 416.20 (defunct corporation)

☒ CCP 416.40 (association or partnership)

☐ other (specify):

4. ☐ by personal delivery on (date):

CASE NUMBER
(Número del Caso)

C21-00131-

PLD-PI-001

ATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY (Name, State Bar number, and address): NICK CASPER SBN: 244637 CASPER, MEADOWS, SCHWARTZ & COOK 2121 N. California Blvd., Suite 1020 Walnut Creek, CA 94596 TELEPHONE NO: 925-947-1147 FAX NO. (Optional): 925-947-1131 E-MAIL ADDRESS (Optional): ncasper@cmslaw.com ATTORNEY FOR (Name): Armaan Faiez, by & through his Guardian ad Litem, Parwiz Faiez		FOR COURT USE ONLY FILED JAN 27 2021 K. HIRSH (CLERK OF THE COURT) SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF CONTRA COSTA By _____ PER LOCAL RULE, THIS CASE IS ASSIGNED TO DEPT. 21 FOR ALL PURPOSES
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF CONTRA COSTA STREET ADDRESS: 725 Court Street MAILING ADDRESS: 725 Court Street CITY AND ZIP CODE: Martinez, 94553 BRANCH NAME: Wakefield Taylor Courthouse		
PLAINTIFF: ARMAAN FAIEZ by and through his Guardian ad Litem, PARWIEZ FAIEZ DEFENDANT: LOWE'S HOME CENTERS, LLC <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DOES 1 TO 5		
COMPLAINT—Personal Injury, Property Damage, Wrongful Death <input type="checkbox"/> AMENDED (Number): Type (check all that apply): <input type="checkbox"/> MOTOR VEHICLE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (specify): Premises Liability <input type="checkbox"/> Property Damage <input type="checkbox"/> Wrongful Death <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Personal Injury <input type="checkbox"/> Other Damages (specify):		CASE NUMBER: C21-00131-
Jurisdiction (check all that apply): <input type="checkbox"/> ACTION IS A LIMITED CIVIL CASE Amount demanded <input type="checkbox"/> does not exceed \$10,000 <input type="checkbox"/> exceeds \$10,000, but does not exceed \$25,000 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACTION IS AN UNLIMITED CIVIL CASE (exceeds \$25,000) <input type="checkbox"/> ACTION IS RECLASSIFIED by this amended complaint <input type="checkbox"/> from limited to unlimited <input type="checkbox"/> from unlimited to limited		

1. Plaintiff (name or names): ARMAAN FAIEZ, a minor, by and through his Guardian Ad Litem, PARWIEZ FAIEZ alleges causes of action against defendant (name or names): LOWE'S HOME CENTERS, LLC
2. This pleading, including attachments and exhibits, consists of the following number of pages: 4
3. Each plaintiff named above is a competent adult
 - a. ☒ except plaintiff (name): ARMAAN FAIEZ
 - (1) ☐ a corporation qualified to do business in California
 - (2) ☐ an unincorporated entity (describe):
 - (3) ☐ a public entity (describe):
 - (4) ☒ a minor ☐ an adult
 - (a) ☒ for whom a guardian or conservator of the estate or a guardian ad litem has been appointed
 - (b) ☐ other (specify):
 - (5) ☐ other (specify):
 - b. ☐ except plaintiff (name):
 - (1) ☐ a corporation qualified to do business in California
 - (2) ☐ an unincorporated entity (describe):
 - (3) ☐ a public entity (describe):
 - (4) ☐ a minor ☐ an adult
 - (a) ☐ for whom a guardian or conservator of the estate or a guardian ad litem has been appointed
 - (b) ☐ other (specify):
 - (5) ☐ other (specify):

☐ Information about additional plaintiffs who are not competent adults is shown in Attachment 3.

PLD-PI-001

SHORT TITLE: Faiez v. Lowe's

CASE NUMBER:

4. ☐ Plaintiff (name):

is doing business under the fictitious name (specify):

and has complied with the fictitious business name laws.

5. Each defendant named above is a natural person

a. ☒ except defendant (name): Lowe's Home Centers, LLC(1) ☐ a business organization, form unknown(2) ☐ a corporation(3) ☐ an unincorporated entity (describe):(4) ☐ a public entity (describe):(5) ☒ other (specify):

a Limited Liability Company

c. ☐ except defendant (name):(1) ☐ a business organization, form unknown(2) ☐ a corporation(3) ☐ an unincorporated entity (describe):(4) ☐ a public entity (describe):(5) ☐ other (specify):b. ☐ except defendant (name):(1) ☐ a business organization, form unknown(2) ☐ a corporation(3) ☐ an unincorporated entity (describe):(4) ☐ a public entity (describe):(5) ☐ other (specify):d. ☐ except defendant (name):(1) ☐ a business organization, form unknown(2) ☐ a corporation(3) ☐ an unincorporated entity (describe):(4) ☐ a public entity (describe):(5) ☐ other (specify):☐ Information about additional defendants who are not natural persons is contained in Attachment 5.

6. The true names of defendants sued as Does are unknown to plaintiff.

a. ☒ Doe defendants (specify Doe numbers): 5 _____ were the agents or employees of other named defendants and acted within the scope of that agency or employment.b. ☒ Doe defendants (specify Doe numbers): 5 _____ are persons whose capacities are unknown to plaintiff.7. ☐ Defendants who are joined under Code of Civil Procedure section 382 are (names):

8. This court is the proper court because

a. ☐ at least one defendant now resides in its jurisdictional area.b. ☐ the principal place of business of a defendant corporation or unincorporated association is in its jurisdictional area.c. ☒ injury to person or damage to personal property occurred in its jurisdictional area.d. ☐ other (specify):9. ☐ Plaintiff is required to comply with a claims statute, anda. ☐ has complied with applicable claims statutes, orb. ☐ is excused from complying because (specify):

PLD-PI-001

SHORT TITLE: Faiez v. Lowe's

CASE NUMBER:

10. The following causes of action are attached and the statements above apply to each (each complaint must have one or more causes of action attached):

- a. ☐ Motor Vehicle
- b. ☐ General Negligence
- c. ☐ Intentional Tort
- d. ☐ Products Liability
- e. ☒ Premises Liability
- f. ☐ Other (specify):

11. Plaintiff has suffered

- a. ☐ wage loss
- b. ☐ loss of use of property
- c. ☒ hospital and medical expenses Future medical expenses only
- d. ☒ general damage
- e. ☐ property damage
- f. ☐ loss of earning capacity
- g. ☒ other damage (specify): Plaintiff is waiving all past medical expenses.

12. ☐ The damages claimed for wrongful death and the relationships of plaintiff to the deceased are

- a. ☐ listed in Attachment 12.
- b. ☐ as follows:

13. The relief sought in this complaint is within the jurisdiction of this court.

14. Plaintiff prays for judgment for costs of suit; for such relief as is fair, just, and equitable; and for

- a. (1) ☒ compensatory damages
- (2) ☐ punitive damages

The amount of damages is (in cases for personal injury or wrongful death, you must check (1)):

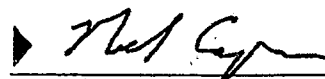
- (1) ☒ according to proof
- (2) ☐ in the amount of: \$

15. ☐ The paragraphs of this complaint alleged on information and belief are as follows (specify paragraph numbers):

Date: January 27, 2021

NICK CASPER

(TYPE OR PRINT NAME)



(SIGNATURE OF PLAINTIFF OR ATTORNEY)

PLD-PI-001(4)

SHORT TITLE: Faiez v. Lowe's

CASE NUMBER:

FIRST

(number)

CAUSE OF ACTION—Premises Liability

Page 4

ATTACHMENT TO ☒ Complaint ☐ Cross - Complaint

(Use a separate cause of action form for each cause of action.)

Prem.L-1. Plaintiff (name): ARMAAN FAIEZ, a minor, by and through his Guardian Ad Litem, PARWIEZ FAIEZ alleges the acts of defendants were the legal (proximate) cause of damages to plaintiff.

On (date): March 25, 2018

plaintiff was injured on the following premises in the following

fashion (description of premises and circumstances of injury): Plaintiff Armaan Faiez, one year old at the time, was with his parents who were shopping at Lowe's Home Improvement at 5503 Lone Tree Way in Antioch. A Lowe's employee was walking out of an aisle carrying a 6-foot umbrella pole. He turned next to the family and struck Armaan across the face with the pole, causing a nasal injury. Armaan now has severe nasal issues due to a deviated septum and attendant sinus issue that will likely require surgery when he is older.

Prem.L-2. ☒ **Count One—Negligence** The defendants who negligently owned, maintained, managed and operated the described premises were (names): LOWE'S HOME CENTERS, LLC

☒ Does 1 to 5

Prem.L-3. ☒ **Count Two—Willful Failure to Warn** [Civil Code section 846] The defendant owners who willfully or maliciously failed to guard or warn against a dangerous condition, use, structure, or activity were (names): LOWE'S HOME CENTERS, LLC

☒ Does 1 to 5Plaintiff, a recreational user, was ☐ an invited guest ☐ a paying guest.

Prem.L-4. ☐ **Count Three—Dangerous Condition of Public Property** The defendants who owned public property on which a dangerous condition existed were (names):

☐ Does 1 to 5

- a. ☐ The defendant public entity had ☐ actual ☐ constructive notice of the existence of the dangerous condition in sufficient time prior to the injury to have corrected it.
- b. ☐ The condition was created by employees of the defendant public entity.

Prem.L-5. a. ☒ **Allegations about Other Defendants** The defendants who were the agents and employees of the other defendants and acted within the scope of the agency were (names): LOWE'S HOME CENTERS, LLC

☒ Does 1 to 5

- b. ☐ The defendants who are liable to plaintiffs for other reasons and the reasons for their liability are ☐ described in attachment Prem.L-5.b ☐ as follows (names):

ATTORNEY (Name, State Bar number, and address) NICK CASPER SBN: 244637 CASPER, MEADOWS, SCHWARTZ & COOK 2121 N. California Blvd., Suite 1020 Walnut Creek, CA 94596 TELEPHONE NO.: 925-947-1147 FAX NO. (Optional): 925-947-1131 E-MAIL ADDRESS (Optional): ncasper@cmslaw.com ATTORNEY FOR (Name): Armaan Faiez	<div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; opacity: 0.5;">FILED</div> <div style="text-align: right;">CIV-010</div> <div style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">2021 FEB -2 A 10: 20</div> <div style="text-align: center;"> CLERK OF THE SUPERIOR COURT COUNTY OF CONTRA COSTA, CA BY: VCH/EX </div>
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF CONTRA COSTA STREET ADDRESS: 725 Court Street MAILING ADDRESS: 725 Court Street CITY AND ZIP CODE: Martinez, 94553 BRANCH NAME: Wakefield Taylor Courthouse	
PLAINTIFF/PETITIONER: ARMAAN FAIEZ by and through his Guardian ad Litem, PARWIEZ FAIEZ DEFENDANT/RESPONDENT: LOWE'S HOME CENTERS, LLC	
APPLICATION AND ORDER FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN AD LITEM—CIVIL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EX PARTE	CASE NUMBER: <div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">C21-00131-</div>
<i>NOTE: This form is for use in civil proceedings in which a party is a minor, an incapacitated person, or a person for whom a conservator has been appointed. A party who seeks the appointment of a guardian ad litem in a family law or juvenile proceeding should use form FL-935. A party who seeks the appointment of a guardian ad litem in a probate proceeding should use form DE-350/GC-100. An individual cannot act as a guardian ad litem unless he or she is represented by an attorney or is an attorney.</i>	

1. Applicant (name): PARWIEZ FAIEZ is
 - a. ☒ the parent of (name): ARMAAN FAIEZ
 - b. ☐ the guardian of (name):
 - c. ☐ the conservator of (name):
 - d. ☐ a party to the suit.
 - e. ☐ the minor to be represented (if the minor is 14 years of age or older).
 - f. ☐ another interested person (specify capacity):
2. This application seeks the appointment of the following person as guardian ad litem (state name, address, and telephone number):
 PARWIEZ FAIEZ ph: (925) 289-6618
 713 Marjora Drive, Brentwood, CA 94513
3. The guardian ad litem is to represent the interests of the following person (state name, address, and telephone number):
 ARMAAN FAIEZ ph: (925) 289-6618
 713 Marjora Drive, Brentwood, CA 94513
4. The person to be represented is:
 - a. ☒ a minor (date of birth): 11/16/16
 - b. ☐ an incompetent person.
 - c. ☐ a person for whom a conservator has been appointed.
5. The court should appoint a guardian ad litem because:
 - a. ☒ the person named in Item 3 has a cause or causes of action on which suit should be brought (describe):
 Minor sustained personal injuries at Lowe's Home Improvement at 5503 Lone Tree Way in Antioch, CA.

☐ Continued on Attachment 5a.

CIV-010

PLAINTIFF/PETITIONER: ARMAAN FAIEZ by and through his Guardian ad Litem,
 DEFENDANT/RESPONDENT: LOWE'S HOME CENTERS, LLC

CASE NUMBER:

5. b. ☐ more than 10 days have elapsed since the summons in the above-entitled matter was served on the person named in Item 3, and no application for the appointment of a guardian ad litem has been made by the person identified in Item 3 or any other person.
- c. ☐ the person named in Item 3 has no guardian or conservator of his or her estate.
- d. ☐ the appointment of a guardian ad litem is necessary for the following reasons (specify):

☐ Continued on Attachment 5d.

6. The proposed guardian ad litem's relationship to the person he or she will be representing is:
- a. ☒ related (state relationship): Father
- b. ☐ not related (specify capacity):

7. The proposed guardian ad litem is fully competent and qualified to understand and protect the rights of the person he or she will represent and has no interests adverse to the interests of that person. (If there are any issues of competency or qualification or any possible adverse interests, describe and explain why the proposed guardian should nevertheless be appointed):

☐ Continued on Attachment 7.

Nick Casper

(TYPE OR PRINT NAME)

(SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY)

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Date: January 14, 2021

PARWIEZ FAIEZ

(TYPE OR PRINT NAME)

(SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT)

CONSENT TO ACT AS GUARDIAN AD LITEM

I consent to the appointment as guardian ad litem under the above petition.

Date: January 14, 2021

PARWIEZ FAIEZ

(TYPE OR PRINT NAME)

(SIGNATURE OF PROPOSED GUARDIAN AD LITEM)

ORDER ☒ EX PARTE

THE COURT FINDS that it is reasonable and necessary to appoint a guardian ad litem for the person named in Item 3 of the application, as requested.

THE COURT ORDERS that (name): PARWIEZ FAIEZ
 is hereby appointed as the guardian ad litem for (name): ARMAAN FAIEZ
 for the reasons set forth in Item 5 of the application.

Date:

JILL C. FANNIN

JUDICIAL OFFICER

☐ SIGNATURE FOLLOWS LAST ATTACHMENT

JAN 28 2021

CIV-010 (Rev. January 1, 2008)

APPLICATION AND ORDER FOR APPOINTMENT
 OF GUARDIAN AD LITEM—CIVIL

Page 2 of 2

SUPERIOR COURT - MARTIL
COUNTY OF CONTRA COSTA
MARTINEZ, CA, 94553

ARMAAN FAIEZ VS LOWE'S HOME CENTERS LLC

NOTICE OF CASE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

CIVMSC21-00131

1. NOTICE: THE CASE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE HAS BEEN SCHEDULED FOR:

DATE: 06/15/21

DEPT: 21

TIME: 8:30

THIS FORM, A COPY OF THE NOTICE TO DEFENDANTS, THE ADR INFORMATION SHEET, A BLANK CASE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE QUESTIONNAIRE, AND A BLANK STIPULATION FORM ARE TO BE SERVED ON OPPOSING PARTIES. ALL PARTIES SERVED WITH SUMMONS AND COMPLAINT/CROSS-COMPLAINT OR THEIR ATTORNEY OF RECORD MUST APPEAR.

2. You may stipulate to an earlier Case Management Conference. If all parties agree to an early Case Management Conference, please contact the Court Clerk's Office at (925)608-1000 for Unlimited Civil and Limited Civil cases for assignment of an earlier date.

3. You must be familiar with the case and be fully prepared to participate effectively in the Case Management Conference and to discuss the suitability of this case for the EASE Program, private mediation, binding or non-binding arbitration, and/or use of a Special Master.

4. At any Case Management Conference the court may make pretrial orders including the following:

- a. an order establishing a discovery schedule
- b. an order referring the case to arbitration
- c. an order transferring the case to limited jurisdiction
- d. an order dismissing fictitious defendants
- e. an order scheduling exchange of expert witness information
- f. an order setting subsequent conference and the trial date
- g. an order consolidating cases
- h. an order severing trial of cross-complaints or bifurcating issues
- i. an order determining when demurrers and motions will be filed

SANCTIONS

If you do not file the Case Management Conference Questionnaire or attend the Case Management Conference or participate effectively in the Conference, the court may impose sanctions (including dismissal of the case and payment of money).

Clerk of the Superior Court of Contra Costa County
I declare under penalty of perjury that I am not a party to this action, and that I delivered or mailed a copy of this notice to the person representing the plaintiff/cross-complainant.

Dated: 01/28/21

C. JACALA

Deputy Clerk of the Court

Superior Court of California, County of Contra Costa

UNLIMITED JURISDICTION

Civil Actions

PACKET

What you will find in this packet:

- **Interpreter Request (MC-300e&s)**
- **Notice To Plaintiffs (CV-655a-INFO)**
- **Notice To Defendants (CV-655d-INFO)**
- **ADR Case Management Stipulation and Order (CV-655b)**
- **Case Management Statement (CM-110)**
- **Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Information (CV-655c-INFO)**

You Can Get Court Forms FREE at: www.cc-courts.org/forms

Superior Court of California, County of Contra Costa

Interpreter Request

If you need an interpreter, please complete the form below and submit it to any Filing Window or courtroom.

Case Number: _____

Case Type:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Criminal | <input type="checkbox"/> Small Claims – (\$10,000 or less) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Traffic | <input type="checkbox"/> Civil - <input type="checkbox"/> \$25,000 <input type="checkbox"/> over \$25,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Civil Harassment | <input type="checkbox"/> Civil – Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservatorship | <input type="checkbox"/> Family Law |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Proceedings to terminate parental rights | <input type="checkbox"/> Unlawful Detainer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dependent Adult Abuse | <input type="checkbox"/> Guardianship |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Juvenile | <input type="checkbox"/> Elder Abuse |

Party Requesting Interpreter: _____

Is interpreter for a witness? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Phone Number(s) where party can be reached: _____

Date of Hearing: _____ Time of Hearing: _____

Department: _____ Location: ☐ Martinez ☐ Pittsburg ☐ Richmond ☐ Walnut Creek

Language Needed: ☐ Spanish ☐ Mandarin ☐ Cantonese ☐ Vietnamese

☐ Other: _____

To avoid the risk that your hearing will have to be postponed, please submit this form a minimum of one week in advance.

Current information about this program is available at our website:

www.cc-courts.org/interpreter

Superior Court of California, County of Contra Costa

Solicitud Para Intérprete

Si necesita un intérprete, favor completar este formulario y presentarlo en cualquier ventanilla para archivar documentos o con la secretaria del tribunal.

Número de Caso: _____

Tipo de Caso:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Criminal
<input type="checkbox"/> Tráfico
<input type="checkbox"/> Acoso Civil
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservador
<input type="checkbox"/> Casos para Terminar Derechos de Madre o Padre
<input type="checkbox"/> Abuso de Adultos Incapacitados
<input type="checkbox"/> Tribunal de Menores | <input type="checkbox"/> Demanda Civil – (\$10,000 o menos)
<input type="checkbox"/> Demanda Civil -
<input type="checkbox"/> \$25,000 <input type="checkbox"/> más de \$25,000
<input type="checkbox"/> Civil – otro tipo _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Casos de Familia
<input type="checkbox"/> Juicio de Desalojo
<input type="checkbox"/> Tutela
<input type="checkbox"/> Abuso de Personas Mayores |
|--|--|

Persona que Necesita Intérprete: _____

☐ Marque aquí si esta persona es un testigo

Número Telefónico: _____

Fecha de la Audiencia Judicial: _____ Hora: _____

Departamento: _____ Ciudad: ☐ Martinez ☐ Pittsburg ☐ Richmond ☐ Walnut Creek

Idioma Solicitado: ☐ Español ☐ Mandarín ☐ Cantonés ☐ Vietnamita

☐ Otro Idioma: _____

Para evitar la posibilidad que su audiencia sea aplazada, favor the presentar este formulario al menos una semana antes de la fecha de su audiencia.

Información actualizada acerca de este servicio se encuentra en nuestra página web:
www.cc-courts.org/interpreter

Superior Court of California, County of Contra Costa

NOTICE TO PLAINTIFFS
In Unlimited Jurisdiction Civil Actions

AFTER YOU FILE YOUR COURT CASE:

1. Have the forms the clerk gives you served on all defendants in this case:
 - a. The Complaint
 - b. The Summons
 - c. The Notice of Case Management Conference (shows hearing date and time)
 - d. The Notice to Defendants (Local Court Form CV-655d-INFO)
 - e. Blank: Case Management Statement (Judicial Council Form CM-110)
 - f. Blank: Stipulation and Order to Attend ADR and Delay First Case Management Conference 90 Days (Local Court Form CV-655b)
 - g. Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Information (Local Court Form CV-655c-INFO)
2. Within 60 days of the date you filed the complaint **you must prove that the forms have been served on (delivered to) the defendants correctly** by filing the **Proof of Service** form (POS-010) (completed by the person who did the service) with the court.
3. **Go to the case management conference on the date indicated on The Notice of Case Management Conference.**
4. **Consider using mediation, arbitration, or neutral case evaluation (ADR) to resolve the dispute.** All parties must answer questions about ADR on the *Case Management Statement* form. For more information, see the enclosed ADR information, visit www.cc-courts.org/adr, or email adrweb@contracosta.courts.ca.gov
5. **You may delay the first case management conference while you try to resolve the dispute in ADR.** If all parties agree to use ADR, complete and file the **Stipulation and Order to Attend ADR and Continue First Case Management Conference 90 Days** form to tell the court you want to use this option.

All civil actions (except juvenile, probate, family, unlawful detainer, extraordinary writ, and asset forfeiture¹) and personal injury cases where a party is claiming damages² must meet the Civil Trial Delay Reduction time limits for filing documents and moving their cases forward. These time limits are listed in California Rule of Court 3.110 and Local Court Rules; Title Three. If parties miss these deadlines, a judge might issue an order (*Order to Show Cause*) for them to explain in court why they should not have to pay a fine or have their case dismissed.

VIEW LOCAL COURT RULES AT: (WWW.CC-COURTS.ORG/RULES)

¹ Health and Safety Code §11470 et seq.

² Including claims for emotional distress and/or wrongful death.

WHAT KIND OF RESPONSES CAN I FILE?

1. If you disagree with some or all of what the plaintiff says in the complaint because you believe, or know it is not true, you can file an ANSWER.
2. If you have a claim in the same case against the plaintiff, you may file a CROSS-COMPLAINT.
3. If you want to ask the court to do something on your behalf, you may file a MOTION (See *TYPES OF MOTIONS* below)

HOW DO I PREPARE AN ANSWER?

There are two kinds of Answers you can use, depending on whether the Complaint was verified. You can tell if a Complaint is verified because it says "Verified Complaint" and/or has a signed oath on the last page.

For complaints that are NOT verified:

Use Judicial Council form PLD-050 – General Denial

For complaints that ARE verified:

- a. For personal injury, property damage, and wrongful death claims, use Judicial Council PLD-PI-003 (do not check number 2).
- b. For contract claims, use Judicial Council PLD-C-010 (do not check number 3a).
- c. Be sure to deny every claim with which you disagree. For example, you might write: "*I believe, or know, that the information in paragraph #__ is untrue/incorrect.*" Continue your list until you have addressed each paragraph in the Complaint.

NOTE: The Judicial Council Answer forms have spaces for your affirmative defenses. Be sure to include them or you may not be able to use them later. To find out what your affirmative defenses might be, go to the law library and ask the librarian to help you find the information you need.

If you want to file a Cross-Complaint, you must do so at the same time you file the Answer.

- a. For a personal injury, property damage, and/or wrongful death Cross-Complaint, use Judicial Council form PLD-PI-002.
- b. For a contract Cross-Complaint, use Judicial Council PLD-C-001.

TYPES OF MOTIONS

Written motions are documents that ask the court to do something. You may have to file an *Answer* at the same time. At this point in the case, you can only make Motions from the following list:

1. Demurrer (*the facts stated in the complaint are wrong, or the deadline to file the lawsuit has passed*);
2. Motion to Strike (*the complaint is unclear, does not follow the law, "doesn't matter", etc.*);
3. Motion to Transfer (*the complaint is in the wrong court or there's a more appropriate court*);
4. Motion to Quash Service of Summons (*you were not legally served*);
5. Motion to Stay (*put the case on hold*); or
6. Motion to Dismiss (*stops the case*).

NOTE: Motions are very complicated and you may want to hire a lawyer to help you.

WHERE CAN I GET MORE HELP?

- Lawyer Referral Service: (925) 825-5700
- Bay Area Legal Aid: (800) 551-5554
- Contra Costa County Law Library: Martinez: (925) 646- 2783 Richmond: (510) 374-3019
- Ask the Law Librarian: www.247ref.org/portal/access_law3.cfm

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF CONTRA COSTA**

Plaintiff(s) / Cross Plaintiff(s)

vs.

ADR Case Management Stipulation and Order
(Unlimited Jurisdiction Civil Cases)

Defendant(s) / Cross Defendant(s)

CASE NO: _____

- ▶ ALL PARTIES STIPULATING TO ADR AND DELAYING THEIR CASE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE 90 DAYS MUST SUBMIT THE ORDER FOR THE JUDGE'S SIGNATURE AND FILE THIS FORM AT LEAST 15 DAYS BEFORE THEIR CASE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE. (NOT AVAILABLE IN COMPLEX LITIGATION CASES.)
- ▶ PARTIES MUST ALSO SEND A COPY OF THIS FILED STIPULATION AND ORDER TO THE ADR OFFICE:
EMAIL adrweb@contracosta.courts.ca.gov FAX: (925) 608-2109 MAIL: P.O. BOX 911, MARTINEZ, CA 94553

Counsel and all parties agree to delay their case management conference 90 days to attend ADR and complete pre-ADR discovery as follows:

1. Selection and scheduling for Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR):

- a. The parties have agreed to ADR as follows:
- i. ☐ Mediation (☐ Court-connected ☐ Private)
 - ii. ☐ Arbitration (☐ Judicial Arbitration (non-binding) ☐ Private (non-binding) ☐ Private (binding))
 - iii. ☐ Neutral case evaluation
- b. The ADR neutral shall be selected by (date): _____ (no more than 14 days after filing this form)
- c. ADR shall be completed by (date): _____ (no more than 90 days after filing this form)

2. The parties will complete the following discovery plan:

- a. ☐ Written discovery: (☐ Additional page(s) attached)
- i. ☐ Interrogatories to:
 - ii. ☐ Request for Production of Documents to:
 - iii. ☐ Request for Admissions to:
 - iv. ☐ Independent Medical Evaluation of:
 - v. ☐ Other:
- b. ☐ Deposition of the following parties or witnesses: (☐ Additional page(s) attached)
- i. _____
 - ii. _____
 - iii. _____
- c. ☐ No Pre-ADR discovery needed

3. The parties also agree: _____

4. Counsel and self-represented parties represent they are familiar with and will fully comply with all local court rules related to ADR as provided in Title Three; Chapter 5, will pay the fees associated with these services, and understand that if they do not, without good cause, comply with this stipulation and all relevant local court rules, they may be subject to sanctions.

Counsel for Plaintiff (print)

Fax

Signature

Counsel for Plaintiff (print)

Fax

Signature

Counsel for Defendant (print)

Fax

Signature

Counsel for Defendant (print)

Fax

Signature

Pursuant to the Stipulation of the parties, and subject to the Case Management Order to be filed, IT IS SO ORDERED that the Case Management Conference set for _____ is vacated and rescheduled for _____ at (8:30 a.m. / _____) Plaintiff / Plaintiff's counsel must notify all parties of the new case management conference.

Dated: _____

Judge of the Superior Court

CM-110

ATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY (Name, State Bar number, and address): TELEPHONE NO.: _____ FAX NO. (Optional): _____ E-MAIL ADDRESS (Optional): _____ ATTORNEY FOR (Name): _____	FOR COURT USE ONLY
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF STREET ADDRESS: MAILING ADDRESS: CITY AND ZIP CODE: BRANCH NAME:	
PLAINTIFF/PETITIONER: DEFENDANT/RESPONDENT:	
CASE MANAGEMENT STATEMENT (Check one): <input type="checkbox"/> UNLIMITED CASE (Amount demanded exceeds \$25,000) <input type="checkbox"/> LIMITED CASE (Amount demanded is \$25,000 or less)	
CASE NUMBER:	
A CASE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE is scheduled as follows: Date: _____ Time: _____ Dept.: _____ Div.: _____ Room: _____ Address of court (if different from the address above): _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Intent to Appear by Telephone, by (name): _____	

INSTRUCTIONS: All applicable boxes must be checked, and the specified information must be provided.

1. **Party or parties (answer one):**
 - a. ☐ This statement is submitted by party (name):
 - b. ☐ This statement is submitted jointly by parties (names):
2. **Complaint and cross-complaint (to be answered by plaintiffs and cross-complainants only)**
 - a. The complaint was filed on (date):
 - b. ☐ The cross-complaint, if any, was filed on (date):
3. **Service (to be answered by plaintiffs and cross-complainants only)**
 - a. ☐ All parties named in the complaint and cross-complaint have been served, have appeared, or have been dismissed.
 - b. ☐ The following parties named in the complaint or cross-complaint:
 - (1) ☐ have not been served (specify names and explain why not):
 - (2) ☐ have been served but have not appeared and have not been dismissed (specify names):
 - (3) ☐ have had a default entered against them (specify names):
 - c. ☐ The following additional parties may be added (specify names, nature of involvement in case, and date by which they may be served):
4. **Description of case**
 - a. Type of case in ☐ complaint ☐ cross-complaint (Describe, including causes of action):

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PLAINTIFF/PETITIONER:	CASE NUMBER:
DEFENDANT/RESPONDENT:	

4. b. Provide a brief statement of the case, including any damages. (If personal injury damages are sought, specify the injury and damages claimed, including medical expenses to date [indicate source and amount], estimated future medical expenses, lost earnings to date, and estimated future lost earnings. If equitable relief is sought, describe the nature of the relief.)

☐ (If more space is needed, check this box and attach a page designated as Attachment 4b.)

5. **Jury or nonjury trial**

The party or parties request ☐ a jury trial ☐ a nonjury trial. (If more than one party, provide the name of each party requesting a jury trial):

6. **Trial date**

- a. ☐ The trial has been set for (date):
- b. ☐ No trial date has been set. This case will be ready for trial within 12 months of the date of the filing of the complaint (if not, explain):
- c. Dates on which parties or attorneys will not be available for trial (specify dates and explain reasons for unavailability):

7. **Estimated length of trial**

The party or parties estimate that the trial will take (check one):

- a. ☐ days (specify number):
- b. ☐ hours (short causes) (specify):

8. **Trial representation (to be answered for each party)**

The party or parties will be represented at trial ☐ by the attorney or party listed in the caption ☐ by the following:

a. Attorney:

b. Firm:

c. Address:

d. Telephone number:

f. Fax number:

e. E-mail address:

g. Party represented:

☐ Additional representation is described in Attachment 8.

9. **Preference**

☐ This case is entitled to preference (specify code section):

10. **Alternative dispute resolution (ADR)**

a. **ADR information package.** Please note that different ADR processes are available in different courts and communities; read the ADR information package provided by the court under rule 3.221 for information about the processes available through the court and community programs in this case.

(1) For parties represented by counsel: Counsel ☐ has ☐ has not provided the ADR information package identified in rule 3.221 to the client and reviewed ADR options with the client.

(2) For self-represented parties: Party ☐ has ☐ has not reviewed the ADR information package identified in rule 3.221.

b. **Referral to judicial arbitration or civil action mediation (if available).**

(1) ☐ This matter is subject to mandatory judicial arbitration under Code of Civil Procedure section 1141.11 or to civil action mediation under Code of Civil Procedure section 1775.3 because the amount in controversy does not exceed the statutory limit.

(2) ☐ Plaintiff elects to refer this case to judicial arbitration and agrees to limit recovery to the amount specified in Code of Civil Procedure section 1141.11.

(3) ☐ This case is exempt from judicial arbitration under rule 3.811 of the California Rules of Court or from civil action mediation under Code of Civil Procedure section 1775 et seq. (specify exemption):

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PLAINTIFF/PETITIONER:	CASE NUMBER:
DEFENDANT/RESPONDENT:	

10. c. Indicate the ADR process or processes that the party or parties are willing to participate in, have agreed to participate in, or have already participated in (check all that apply and provide the specified information):

	The party or parties completing this form are willing to participate in the following ADR processes (check all that apply):	If the party or parties completing this form in the case have agreed to participate in or have already completed an ADR process or processes, indicate the status of the processes (attach a copy of the parties' ADR stipulation):
(1) Mediation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Mediation session not yet scheduled <input type="checkbox"/> Mediation session scheduled for (date): <input type="checkbox"/> Agreed to complete mediation by (date): <input type="checkbox"/> Mediation completed on (date):
(2) Settlement conference	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Settlement conference not yet scheduled <input type="checkbox"/> Settlement conference scheduled for (date): <input type="checkbox"/> Agreed to complete settlement conference by (date): <input type="checkbox"/> Settlement conference completed on (date):
(3) Neutral evaluation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Neutral evaluation not yet scheduled <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral evaluation scheduled for (date): <input type="checkbox"/> Agreed to complete neutral evaluation by (date): <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral evaluation completed on (date):
(4) Nonbinding judicial arbitration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Judicial arbitration not yet scheduled <input type="checkbox"/> Judicial arbitration scheduled for (date): <input type="checkbox"/> Agreed to complete judicial arbitration by (date): <input type="checkbox"/> Judicial arbitration completed on (date):
(5) Binding private arbitration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Private arbitration not yet scheduled <input type="checkbox"/> Private arbitration scheduled for (date): <input type="checkbox"/> Agreed to complete private arbitration by (date): <input type="checkbox"/> Private arbitration completed on (date):
(6) Other (specify):	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> ADR session not yet scheduled <input type="checkbox"/> ADR session scheduled for (date): <input type="checkbox"/> Agreed to complete ADR session by (date): <input type="checkbox"/> ADR completed on (date):

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PLAINTIFF/PETITIONER:	CASE NUMBER:
DEFENDANT/RESPONDENT:	

11. Insurance

- a. ☐ Insurance carrier, if any, for party filing this statement (name):
- b. Reservation of rights: ☐ Yes ☐ No
- c. ☐ Coverage issues will significantly affect resolution of this case (explain):

12. Jurisdiction

Indicate any matters that may affect the court's jurisdiction or processing of this case and describe the status.

☐ Bankruptcy ☐ Other (specify):

Status:

13. Related cases, consolidation, and coordination

- a. ☐ There are companion, underlying, or related cases.
- (1) Name of case:
- (2) Name of court:
- (3) Case number:
- (4) Status:
- ☐ Additional cases are described in Attachment 13a.
- b. ☐ A motion to ☐ consolidate ☐ coordinate will be filed by (name party):

14. Bifurcation

- ☐ The party or parties intend to file a motion for an order bifurcating, severing, or coordinating the following issues or causes of action (specify moving party, type of motion, and reasons):

15. Other motions

- ☐ The party or parties expect to file the following motions before trial (specify moving party, type of motion, and issues):

16. Discovery

- a. ☐ The party or parties have completed all discovery.
- b. ☐ The following discovery will be completed by the date specified (describe all anticipated discovery):
- | Party | Description | Date |
|-------|-------------|------|
| | | |

- c. ☐ The following discovery issues, including issues regarding the discovery of electronically stored information, are anticipated (specify):

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PLAINTIFF/PETITIONER:	CASE NUMBER:
DEFENDANT/RESPONDENT:	

17. Economic litigation

- a. ☐ This is a limited civil case (i.e., the amount demanded is \$25,000 or less) and the economic litigation procedures in Code of Civil Procedure sections 90-98 will apply to this case.
- b. ☐ This is a limited civil case and a motion to withdraw the case from the economic litigation procedures or for additional discovery will be filed (if checked, explain specifically why economic litigation procedures relating to discovery or trial should not apply to this case):

18. Other issues

- ☐ The party or parties request that the following additional matters be considered or determined at the case management conference (specify):

19. Meet and confer

- a. ☐ The party or parties have met and conferred with all parties on all subjects required by rule 3.724 of the California Rules of Court (if not, explain):
- b. After meeting and conferring as required by rule 3.724 of the California Rules of Court, the parties agree on the following (specify):

20. Total number of pages attached (if any): _____

I am completely familiar with this case and will be fully prepared to discuss the status of discovery and alternative dispute resolution, as well as other issues raised by this statement, and will possess the authority to enter into stipulations on these issues at the time of the case management conference, including the written authority of the party where required.

Date: _____

(TYPE OR PRINT NAME)

(TYPE OR PRINT NAME)

(SIGNATURE OF PARTY OR ATTORNEY)

(SIGNATURE OF PARTY OR ATTORNEY)

☐ Additional signatures are attached.



**CONTRA COSTA COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT
ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION (ADR) INFORMATION**

All judges in the Civil Trial Delay Reduction Program agree that parties should consider using Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) to settle their cases. To tell the court you will use ADR:

- Choose ADR on the *Case Management Form (CM-110)*;
- File a *Stipulation and Order to Attend ADR and Continue First Case Management Conference 90-Days* (local court form); or
- Agree to ADR at your first court appearance.

Questions? Email adrweb@contracosta.courts.ca.gov or call (925) 608-2075

MEDIATION

Mediation is often faster and less expensive than going to trial. Mediators help people who have a dispute talk about ways they can settle their case. Parties email, fax or visit the ADR Programs office to get a list of mediators. After parties have agreed on a mediator, they must write a summary (5 pages or less) explaining the facts, legal arguments, and legal authority for their position. They must send this summary to the other parties and the mediator at least 5 court days before mediation starts.

ALL parties and attorneys must go to mediation. Mediation can be held whenever and wherever the parties and the mediator want, as long as they finish before the court deadline. In some kinds of court cases, parties have the chance to mediate in the courthouse on their trial day.

Most mediators begin by talking with the parties together, helping them focus on the important issues. The mediator may also meet with each party alone. Mediators often ask parties for their ideas about how to settle the case. Some mediators tell the parties how much money they think a case is worth, or tell them what they think might happen if the case went to trial. Other mediators help the parties decide these things for themselves. No matter what approach a mediator takes, decisions about settling a case can only be made when all the parties agree.

If the parties go through the court ADR program, mediators do not charge fees for the first half hour spent scheduling or preparing for mediation. They also do not charge fees for the first two hours of mediation. If parties need more time, they must pay the mediators regular fees. Some mediators ask for a deposit before mediation starts. Mediators who do this must give back whatever is left after counting the time he or she spent preparing for or doing the mediation. A party whose court fees have been waived (cancelled) may ask if their mediation fees or deposit can be waived.

If parties agree about how they will settle their case, they can choose to keep it private, write it up as a contract, or ask the judge to make it a court order. What parties say and agree to in mediation is confidential (private).

PRIVATE MEDIATION

Private mediation works in the same way as judicial mediation, but the parties do not go through the ADR Programs office. Parties choose a mediator on their own, and pay the mediator's normal fees.

JUDICIAL ARBITRATION (non-binding)

In judicial arbitration, an independent attorney (arbitrator) looks at the evidence, listens to the parties and their witnesses, and decides how the case will be settled. Judicial arbitration is less formal than court. Parties email, fax or visit the ADR Programs office to get a list of arbitrators. If they cannot agree on an arbitrator, the court will assign one. The judge can send cases to arbitration if there is less than \$50,000 in dispute. The person who started the court case can make sure the case goes to arbitration if they agree to limit the amount they are asking for to \$50,000. Parties can also agree they want to use judicial arbitration. The arbitrator must send their decision (award) to the court within 10 days of the last hearing. The award becomes a court judgment unless a party asks the court to review the case within 60 days. Parties must use the ADR-102 form to ask for a new court hearing (called a trial de novo.) Judicial arbitrators charge \$150 per case or per day.

PRIVATE ARBITRATION (non-binding and binding)

Private, non-binding arbitration is the same as judicial arbitration, except that the parties do not go through the ADR Programs office to choose an arbitrator, and the arbitrator's award will not become a judgment of the court unless all parties agree. Parties must pay the arbitrator's normal fees.

Binding arbitration is different from judicial or private non-binding arbitration because the arbitrator's decision is final. Parties give up their right to have a judge review their case later (except for reasons listed in California Code of Civil Procedure, Section 1286.2.) Binding arbitration rules are listed in California Code of Civil Procedure, Sections 1280-1288.8. Parties may also agree any time before the judge has made a decision that ends the case to switch to binding arbitration. Parties choose the arbitrator on their own, and must pay the arbitrator's normal (not \$150) fees.

SETTLEMENT MENTOR CONFERENCE

Settlement mentors are independent, experienced trial attorneys that a judge has assigned to help parties look for ways to settle their case. The conference is free and is held in the courthouse. It is often held on the morning of trial, but it can be scheduled anytime. These conferences usually last two or three hours. Parties do not present evidence and do not call witnesses. Parties can ask the settlement mentor to keep some information confidential (private) from the other party, but not from the judge. The settlement mentor can share any information with the judge, or involve the judge in settlement discussions. All principals, clients, and claims representatives must attend the settlement mentor conference.

NEUTRAL CASE EVALUATION

In neutral case evaluation, an independent attorney (evaluator) reviews documents and listens to each party's side of the case. The evaluator then tells the parties what they think could happen if the case went to trial. Many people use the evaluator's opinion to reach an agreement on their own, or use this information later in mediation or arbitration to settle their case.

Parties email, fax or visit the ADR Programs office to get a list of evaluators. After parties have agreed on an evaluator, they must write a summary (5 pages or less) explaining the facts, legal arguments, and legal authority for their position. They must send this summary to the other parties and the evaluator at least 5 court days before evaluation starts. ALL parties and their attorneys must go to neutral case evaluation. The evaluation can be held whenever and wherever the parties and the evaluator want, as long as they finish before the court deadline. If the parties go through the court's ADR program, evaluators do not charge any fees for the first half hour spent scheduling or preparing for the evaluation conference. They also do not charge fees for the first two hours of the evaluation. If parties need more time, they must pay that evaluators regular fees. Some evaluators ask for a deposit before evaluation starts. Evaluators who do this must give back whatever is left after counting the time he or she spent preparing for or doing the evaluation. A party whose court fees have been waived (cancelled) may ask if their evaluation fees or deposit can be waived.

TEMPORARY JUDGE

Some parties want a trial, but want to choose who will decide the case and when the trial will take place. Parties can agree on an attorney that they want the court to appoint as a temporary judge for their case. (See Article 6, Section 21 of the State Constitution and Rule 2.830 of the California Rules of Court.) Temporary judges have nearly the same authority as a superior court judge to conduct a trial and make decisions. As long as the parties meet the court deadline, they can schedule the trial at their own and the temporary judge's convenience.

Each of the temporary judges on the court's panel has agreed to serve at no charge for up to 5 court days. If the parties need more time, they must pay that person's regular fees. All parties and their lawyers must attend the trial, and provide a copy of all briefs or other court documents to the temporary judge at least two weeks before the trial. These trials are similar to other civil trials, but are usually held outside the court. The temporary judge's decision can be appealed to the superior court. There is no option for a jury trial. The parties must provide their own court reporter.

SPECIAL MASTER

A special master is a private lawyer, retired judge, or other expert appointed by the court to help make day-to-day decisions in a court case. The special master's role can vary, but often includes making decisions that help the discovery (information exchange) process go more smoothly. He or she can make decisions about the facts in the case. Special masters can be especially helpful in complex cases. The trial judge defines what the special master can and cannot do in a court order.

Special masters often issue both interim recommendations and a final report to the parties and the court. If a party objects to what the special master decides or reports to the court, that party can ask the judge to review the matter. In general, the parties choose (by stipulation) whom they want the court to appoint as the special master, but there are times (see California Code of Civil Procedure Section 639), when the court may appoint a special master or referee without the parties' agreement. The parties are responsible to pay the special master's regular fees.

COMMUNITY MEDIATION SERVICES

Mediation Services are available through non-profit community organizations. These low-cost services are provided by trained volunteer mediators. For more information about these programs contact the ADR Program at adrweb@contracosta.courts.ca.gov